

MIN

2. Gay has improperly made it a substantive.
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*
MINIKIN. *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt.
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,
Thy sheep be in the corn;
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
MINIM. *n. f.* [from *minimus*, Lat.]
1. A small being; a dwarf.
Not all
Minimus of nature; some of serpent-kind,
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, involv'd
Their snaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small
fort of fish, which they pronounce *minim*. See **MINNOW**.
MINIMUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the least size.
Get you gone, you dwarf,
You *minimus* of hind'ring knot-grass made;
You bead, you acorn. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
MINION. *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a
low dependant; one who pleases rather than benefits. A
word of contempt, or of slight and familiar kindness.
Minion, said he; indeed I was a pretty one in those days;
I see a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*
They were made great courtiers, and in the way of *minions*,
when advancement, the most mortal offence to envy,
stirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*
One, who had been a special *minion* of Andromanas, hated
us for having dispossest him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Go rate thy *minions*;
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms
Before thy sovereign. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*
Duncan's horses,
Beauteous and swift, the *minions* of the race,
Turn'd wild in nature. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
His company must do his *minions* grace,
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
Edward sent one army into Ireland; not for conquest, but
to guard the person of his *minion* Piers Gaveston. *Davies.*
If a man should launch into the history of human nature,
we should find the very *minions* of princes linked in conspira-
cies against their master. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
The drowsy tyrant by his *minions* led,
To regal rage devotes some patriot's head. *Swift.*
MINIOUS. *adj.* [from *minium*, Latin.] Of the colour of red
lead or vermilion.
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and *minious*
tincture from springs that fall into it. *Brown.*
To **MINISH.** *v. a.* [from *diminish*; *minus*, Latin.] To lessen;
to lop; to impair.
Ye shall not *minish* ought from your bricks of your daily
task. *Exod. v. 19.*
They are *minished* and brought low through oppression.
Psal. cvii. 39.
Another law was to bring in the silver of the realm to the
mint, in making all clipt, *minished*, or impaired coins of sil-
ver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
MINISTER. *n. f.* [*minister*, Latin; *ministre*, Fr.]
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts
not by any inherent authority, but under another.
You, whom virtue hath made the princeps of felicity, be
not the *minister* of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Rumble thy belly full; spit fire, spout rain,
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness:
But yet I call you servile *ministers*,
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainst a head
So old and white as this. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
Th' infernal *minister* advanc'd,
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*
Other spirits govern'd by the will,
Shoot through their tracks, and distant muscles fill;
This sovereign, by his arbitrary nod,
Restrains or lends his *ministers* abroad. *Blackmore.*
2. One who is employed in the administration of govern-
ment.
Kings must be answerable to God, but the *ministers* to
kings, whose eyes, ears, and hands they are, must be an-
swerable to God and man. *Bacon.*
3. One who serves at the altar; one who performs sacerdotal
functions.
Epaphras, a faithful *minister* of Christ. *1 Col. i. 7.*
The *ministers* are always preaching, and the governors
putting forth edicts against dancing and gaming. *Addison.*
The *ministers* of the gospel are especially required to shine
as lights in the world, because the distinction of their station

renders their conduct more observable; and the presumption
of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a
peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*
4. A delegate; an official.
If wrongfully
Let God revenge; for I may never lift
An angry arm against his *minister*. *Shaksp. Rich. II.*
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an
ambassador.
To **MINISTER.** *v. a.* [*ministre*, Latin.] To give; to supply;
to afford.
All the customs of the Irish would *minister* occasion of a
most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that
people. *Spenser on Ireland.*
Now he that *ministereth* seed to the sower, both *minister*
bread for your food and multiply your seed sown. *2 Cor. ix.*
The wounded patient bears
The artist's hand that *ministers* the cure. *Orwoy's Orphan.*
To **MINISTER.** *v. n.*
1. To attend; to serve in any office.
Certain of them had the charge of the *ministering* vessels,
to bring them in and out by tale. *1 Chron. ix. 28.*
They which *minister* about holy things, live of the things
of the temple. *1 Cor. ix. 13.*
At table Eve
Minister'd naked, and their flowing cups
With pleasant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*
2. To give medicines.
Canst thou not *minister* to a mind diseas'd,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*
3. To give supplies of things needful; to give assistance; to
contribute; to conduce.
Others *ministered* unto him of their substance. *Luke viii. 3.*
He who has a soul wholly void of gratitude, should set his
soul to learn of his body; for all the parts of that *minister* to
one another. *South's Sermons.*
There is no truth which a man may more evidently make
out than the existence of a God; yet he that shall con-
tent himself with things as they *minister* to us pleasures and
passions, and not make enquiry a little farther into their
causes and ends, may live long without any notion of such a
being. *Locke.*
Those good men, who take such pleasure in relieving the
miserable for Christ's sake, would not have been less forward
to *minister* unto Christ himself. *Atterbury.*
Fasting is not absolutely good, but relatively, and as it
ministers to other virtues. *Smalridge's Sermons.*
4. To attend on the service of God.
Whether prophesy, let us prophesy according to the pro-
portion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our *ministering*.
Rom. xii. 7.
MINISTERIAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.]
1. Attendant; acting at command.
Understanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity
in the lion; service, and *ministerial* officiousness, in the ox.
Brown's Vulgar Errors.
From essences unseen, celestial names,
Enlight'ning spirits, and *ministerial* flames,
Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,
Who blest'd the whole with life. *Prior.*
2. Acting under superior authority.
For the *ministerial* officers in court there must be an eye
unto them. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*
Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real
value in religion, than as a *ministerial* cause of moral effects;
as it recalls us from the world, and gives a serious turn to
our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.
These speeches of Jerom and Chrysostom plainly allude
unto such *ministerial* garments as were then in use. *Hooker.*
4. Pertaining to ministers of state, or persons in subordinate au-
thority.
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [*ministerium*, Lat.] Office; service. This
word is now contracted to *ministry*, but used by *Milton* as
four syllables.
They that will have their chamber filled with a good scent,
make some odoriferous water be blown about it by their ser-
vants mouths that are dextrous in that *ministry*. *Digby.*
This temple to frequent
With *ministries* due, and solemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*
MINISTRAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Pertaining to a minister.
MINISTRANTS. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Attendant; acting at
command.
Him thrones, and pow'rs,
Princedom, and dominations *ministrant*,
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*
Ministrant to their queen with busy care,
Four faithful handmaids the soft rites prepare. *Pope.*
MINISTRATION.

MIN

MINISTRATION. *n. f.* [from *ministre*, Latin.]
1. Agency; intervention; office of an agent delegated or com-
missioned by another.
God made him the instrument of his providence to me, as
he hath made his own land to him, with this difference, that
God, by his *ministration* to me, intends to do him a favour.
Taylor's living holy.
Though sometimes effected by the immediate fiat of the
divine will, yet I think they are most ordinarily done by the
ministration of angels. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
2. Service; office; ecclesiastical function.
If the present *ministration* be more glorious than the for-
mer, the minister is more holy. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
MINIUM. *n. f.* [Latin.]
Melt lead in a broad earthen vessel unglazed, and stir it
continually till it be calcined into a grey powder; this is
called the calx of lead; continue the fire, stirring it in the
same manner, and it becomes yellow; in this state it is used
in painting, and is called mafficot or mafficot; after this put
it into a reverberatory furnace, and it will calcine further,
and become of a fine red, which is the common *minium* or
red lead: among the ancients *minium* was the name for cin-
nabar: the modern *minium* is used externally, and is excel-
lent in cleansing and healing old ulcers. *Hill's Mat. Med.*
MINISTRY. *n. f.* [contracted from *ministry*; *ministerrum*, Lat.]
1. Office; service.
So far is an indistinction of all persons, and, by conse-
quence, an anarchy of all things, so far from being agree-
able to the will of God, declared in his great household, the
world, and especially in all the *ministries* of his proper house-
hold the church, that there was never yet any time, I be-
lieve, since it was a number, when some of its members
were not more sacred than others. *Sprat's Sermons.*
2. Office of one set apart to preach; ecclesiastical function.
Their *ministry* perform'd, and race well run,
Their doctrine and their story written left,
They die. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*
Saint Paul was miraculously called to the *ministry* of the
gospel, and had the whole doctrine of the gospel from God
by immediate revelation; and was appointed the apostle of
the Gentiles for propagating it in the heathen world. *Locke.*
3. Agency; interposition.
The natural world he made after a miraculous manner;
but directs the affairs of it ever since by standing rules, and
the ordinary *ministry* of second causes.
The poets introduced the *ministry* of the gods, and taught
the separate existence of human souls. *Bentley's Sermons.*
4. Business.
He safe from loud alarms,
Abhor'd the wicked *ministry* of arms. *Dryden's Zen.*
5. Persons employed in the public affairs of a state.
I converse in full freedom with many considerable men of
both parties; and if not in equal number, it is purely acci-
dental, as happening to have made acquaintance at court
more under one *ministry* than another. *Swift.*
MINNOCK. *n. f.* Of this word I know not the precise mean-
ing. It is not unlikely that *minnock* and *minx* are originally
the same word.
An ass's hole I fixed on his head;
Anon his *Thistle* must be answered,
And forth my *minnock* comes. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
MINNOW. *n. f.* [*minne*, French.] A very small fish; a pink:
a corruption of *minim*, which see.
Hear you this triton of the *minnows*? *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
The *minnow*, when he is in perfect season, and not sick,
which is only presently after spawning, hath a kind of dappled
or waved colour, like a panther, on his sides, inclining to a
greenish and sky-colour, his belly being milk-white, and his
back almost black or blackish: he is a sharp biter at a small
worm in hot weather, and in the Spring they make excellent
minnow tangles; for being washed well in salt, and their heads
and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, being fried with
yolks of eggs, primroses and tansy. *Walton's Angler.*
The nimble turning of the *minnow* is the perfection of *min-
now* fishing. *Walton's Angler.*
MINOR. *adj.* [Latin.]
1. Petty; inconsiderable.
If there are petty errors and *minor* lapses, not consid-
erably injurious unto faith, yet is it not safe to condemn in-
ferior fallacies. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v.*
2. Less; smaller.
They altered this custom from cases of high concernment
to the most trivial debates, the *minor* part ordinarily entering
their protest. *Clarendon.*
The difference of a third part in so large and collective an
account is not strange, if we consider how differently they
are set forth in *minor* and less mistakeable numbers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
MINOR. *n. f.*
1. One under age; one whose youth cannot yet allow him to
manage his own affairs.

MIN

King Richard the Second, the first ten years of his reign;
was a *minor*. *Davies on Ireland.*
He and his mule might be *minors*, but the libertines are
full grown. *Collier's View of the Stage.*
Long as the year's dull circle seems to run,
When the brisk *minor* pants for twenty-one. *Pope.*
The noblest blood of England having been shed in the
grand rebellion, many great families became extinct, or sup-
ported only by *minors*. *Swift.*
A *minor* or infant cannot be said to be contumacious, be-
cause he cannot appear as a defendant in court, but by his
guardian. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*
2. The second or particular proposition in the syllogism.
The second or *minor* proposition was, that this kingdom
hath cause of just fear of overthrow from Spain. *Bacon.*
He supposed that a philosopher's brain was like a forest,
where ideas are ranged like animals of several kinds; that
the major is the male, the *minor* the female, which copulate
by the middle term, and engender the conclusion. *Arbutnot.*
To **MINORATE.** *v. a.* [from *minor*, Lat.] To lessen; to di-
minish. A word not yet admitted into the language.
This it doth not only by the advantageous assistance of a
tube, but by shewing in what degrees distance *minorates* the
object. *Glanville's Scept.*
MINORATION. *n. f.* [from *minorate*.] The act of lessening;
diminution; decrease. A word not admitted.
Bodies emit virtue without abatement of weight, as is most
evident in the loadstone, whose efficiencies are communicable
without a *minoration* of gravity. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
We hope the mercies of God will consider our degenerated
integrity unto some *minoration* of our offences. *Brown.*
MINORITY. *n. f.* [*minorité*, Fr. from *minor*, Latin.]
1. The state of being under age.
I mov'd the king, my master, to speak in the behalf of
my daughter, in the *minority* of them both. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
He is young, and his *minority*
Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
These changes in religion should be staid, until the king
were of years to govern by himself: this the people appre-
hending worse than it was, a question was raised, whether,
during the king's *minority*, such alterations might be made or
no. *Hayward's Edw. VI.*
Henry the Eighth, doubting he might die in the *minority* of
his son, procured an act to pass, that no statute made during
the *minority* of the king should bind him or his successors, ex-
cept it were confirmed by the king at his full age. But the
first act that passed in king Edward the Sixth's time, was a
repeal of that former act; at which time nevertheless the
king was *minor*. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
If there be evidence, that it is not many ages since nature
was in her *minority*, this may be taken for a good proof that
she is not eternal. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
Their counsels are warlike and ambitious, though some-
thing tempered by the *minority* of their king. *Temple.*
2. The state of being less.
From this narrow time of gestation may ensue a *minority*,
or smallness in the exclusion. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*
3. The smaller number: as, the *minority* held for that question
in opposition to the majority.
MINOTAUR. *n. f.* [*minotaure*, French; *minos* and *taurus*.] A
monster invented by the poets, half man and half bull, kept
in Dædalus's labyrinth.
Thou may'st not wander in that labyrinth,
There *minotaurs*, and ugly treasons lurk. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
MINSTER. *n. f.* [*munyter*, Saxon.] A monastery; an eccle-
siastical fraternity; a cathedral church. The word is yet re-
tained at York and Lichfield.
MINSTREL. *n. f.* [*menestrel*, Spanish; *menestrallus*, low Latin.]
A musician; one who plays upon instruments.
Hark how the *minstrel's* 'gin to thrill aloud
Their merry musick that rebounds from far,
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling croud,
That well agree withouten breach or jar. *Spenser's Epithal.*
I will give you the *minstrel*.
—Then I will give you the serving creature. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
I to the vulgar am become a jest;
Esteemed as a *minstrel* at a feast. *Sandys's Paraphrase.*
These fellows
Were once the *minstrels* of a country shew;
Follow'd the prizes through each paltry town,
By trumpet-cheeks and bloated faces known.
Often our seers and poets have confest'd,
That musick's force can tame the furious beast;
His rage; the lion drop his crested mane,
Attentive to the song; the lynx forget
His wrath to man, and lick the *minstrel's* feet. *Prior.*
MINSTRELSY. *n. f.* [from *minstrel*.]
1. Musick; instrumental harmony.
Apollo's self will envy at his play,
And all the world applaud his *minstrelsy*. *Davies.*
That